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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000427

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STATE FOR EB/TRA/OTP DHAYWOOD
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2015

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SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION AND OUTREACH
ON MARITIME SECURITY

REF: STATE 38874

Classified By: Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Per reftel, Embassy's Pol/Econ office, Regional Security Office (RSO), Office of Military Cooperation (OMC), and Naval Central Command (NAVCENT) consulted on the coordination of maritime security efforts. The RSO is in direct contact with the Bahrain Coast Guard (BCG) and OMC/NAVCENT liaise with the Royal Bahrain Navy (RBN). The presence of the Naval Fifth Fleet in Bahrain requires close coordination between the USG and the GOB on issues of maritime security. While RSO is the primary contact for the maritime security portfolio, both OMC and RSO work closely with NAVCENT to ensure coordination with the Bahrainis. Recently, NAVCENT hosted staff talks to discuss maritime security with the BCG and the RBN. Representatives from RSO and OMC attended the meetings as well.

¶2. (C) RSO uses the Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program (ATA) to provide training to the BCG. RSO is in contact with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regarding the visit of an assessment team to identify possible areas for USCG assistance to the BCG. The Minister of Interior has made clear to the Embassy that he puts high priority on strengthening the BCG as an important component in his country's efforts to safeguard its borders from terrorist threats. He is hopeful that the MOI can receive USG assistance in this effort.

¶3. (C) The BCG has requested radar operational training and radar assistance. NAVCENT will provide a secure telephone and fax at BCG headquarters for instant secure communication between NAVCENT, the Embassy and the BCG. The BCG is also planning to provide a part-time liaison officer at NAVCENT in order to increase information flows between the two entities and will look into providing one individual to ride with U.S. Fifth Fleet ships in the future. The BCG provides security patrols of the port where the Fifth Fleet is anchored.

¶4. (C) Overall, the coordination between the host country, NAVCENT and the Embassy is very good and improving daily. One possible gap in maritime security efforts is the lack of monitoring of dhows from countries throughout the Gulf.

MONROE